A Eye

Artist Janice McHenry

An interactive, three dimensional sculpture. Medium: found objects, copper and brass hand crocheted wire and paint. The conductive, properties of copper mirror the circuitry found within AI hardware. The QR code is embedded in the eye of the fish, hence A Eye.

Knowledge has often been a problem, as embedded in the story of 'The Salmon of knowledge', and what happened next. It continues to be a problem today. With our use of AI technology, social media, fake news, it is more and more difficult to separate fact from fiction, real from myth.

The Story of the Salmon of Knowledge

The Salmon of Knowledge (Bradán Feasa) lived in a deep, dark pool in the River Boyne. The Salmon had gained all the world's wisdom after eating nine magical hazelnuts that fell into the Well of Wisdom. A prophecy had stated that the very first person to taste the flesh of this salmon would gain all the knowledge and poetry in the world. A poet named Finegas spent seven years catching the fish, but when his apprentice, Fionn mac Cumhaill, cooked it, he accidentally burned his thumb and sucked on it, gaining the salmon's wisdom.[1, 2, 3, 4]

From that day forward, Fionn mac Cumhaill possessed vast knowledge. Whenever he needed divine inspiration or answers to difficult problems, all he had to do was press or bite down on his thumb to unlock the wisdom of the salmon. [1, 2, 3]

Fionn mac Cumhaill went on to be a great warrior, his life being marked by fighting, and tragedy. The stuff legends are made off.

In today's world we are all like Fionn mac Cumhaill, only instead of pressing down on our thumb we press a screen and use the internet to access knowledge. Often we use AI to do our thinking for us.

And so I pose the question: In a world of rapidly escalating technology; where are we going with this?

Longer versions of 'The Salmon of Knowledge' can be found @ www.goggle.com